

PEEL HEALTH CAMPUS, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1817. Mr Marshall to the Minister for Health

Is the Minister aware that there is an urgent need for more Government money to be injected into the Mental Health Services at the Peel Health Campus, despite the good work by the Campus the service is under resourced and the readmission rate is increasing, the level of care required is beyond what practitioners at the Peel Health Campus can offer and I ask what will the Minister do to solve these problems?

Mr KUCERA replied:

The Department of Health does not purchase a specialist mental health inpatient program at the Peel Health Campus. Specialist inpatient mental health services are available throughout the metropolitan area for people of the Peel Region, with the closest unit available at Alma Street in Fremantle.

There is however a specialist community mental health service delivered in the Peel region. The Peel and Rockingham Kwinana (PARK) Mental Health Service provides a comprehensive range of assessment and treatment options for people with a mental illness, including young children and elderly people. The service also provides acute response to emergency/ crisis situations, assertive community outreach and an early episode psychosis program in collaboration with the local Division of General Practice.

The decision to admit a client with a mental illness to the Peel Health Campus is the responsibility of the admitting doctor and is dependent on the doctor's judgement regarding the best treatment option for that particular client. This is the practice of all hospitals across the State that do not have a specialist mental health inpatient program. If a patient requires a more specialist level of treatment they will be transferred to the closest available mental health inpatient unit.

Under the 20 year contract between the Department of Health and the Peel Health Campus the State provides an annual notice which sets out the volumes, the mix of services to be provided and the purchase price for the next financial year. The price is based on costs at benchmark hospitals in the State and the volumes or services targets are based on an analysis that includes assessment of demand and the levels of services provided by the hospital to date.

The notice for 2002-03 has been presented to Health Solutions and Health Solutions has the opportunity to raise any issues they have regarding mental health admissions in this forum where they can be discussed in some detail and resolved.